Appl. No. 09/898,124

Amdt. dated 01/05/2004

Reply to Office action of 10/16/2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 102:

The cancellation of claims 1-6 now renders this rejection moot.

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 103:

The limitations of claims 21-23 were previously individually included in claim 19 to generate new claims 27-29, respectively. In consequence, claims 19-26 have now been canceled. These changes are in accordance with Examiner's position and should render all remaining claims to be allowable.

Applicant therefor respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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